

last weekend and some folks talked to me about what a pleasure it is to pay their property taxes on their automobiles and they also talked to me what a pleasure it was to help finance the state in a number of other areas from fees associated with licensing one's automobile and they sort of explained to me that in Texas it is a lot cheaper, in Iowa it is cheaper, and Kansas is cheaper, and South Dakota. Almost everywhere in the country they said it was cheaper to drive an automobile than in Nebraska, and as soon as they finished explaining all of this to me, I came to realize that they didn't think it was such a pleasure paying these fees, plus property taxes on their automobiles. Now I know that the Highway Trust Fund is sacred. I have understood that since I came in the Legislature. It has been so darn sacred that it has become a lot less sacred to me. I didn't mind holding it in a certain sanctimonious way for the longest time until I realized that there were people really passionate about the issue, but what I am basically proposing here is that if in fact we have to have these very expensive plates, we have to have the 3M Company fully reflectorized fancy-dancy doodad plates that cost a lot of money, and if we have to do that, we ought to do that with....that we have to do that because of the safety aspects of this whole plate issue, so we ought to do that probably from the Highway Trust Fund since some questions of safety are obviously associated with driving and transportation, et cetera, and besides from that folks back home don't want to pay any more fees even though the pleasure of it is something they probably ought to get to appreciate. So it is with that in mind that I offer this amendment, to strike the \$2 or the \$1 per plate of fee that is associated with the cash fund Senator Warner has proposed. I frankly don't think that this kind of cost ought to be coming one more time from the individual who drives, pays property tax on that automobile, helps finance the trust fund in other ways from fees that are associated with auto licensing, and now we are going to hit him one more time. So I move to strike it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose Senator Newell's amendment. The \$1 per plate I think was discussed some time back including through the committee. It seemed to be general concurrence that in order to get new plates that was logical and I would hope you will reject the amendment, and as a matter of fact, it is not even fully financing at \$1 a plate over the three year period because it drops back or there is no charge for those two intervening years between plates when tabs are